EDITION # 03

NOVEMBER 2026

- PCN EVENT BROUGHT PARTNERS TOGETHER
- BE THE VOICE OF PRIMARY CARE IN OUR OHT
- MAKING PROGRESS TOWARD PRIMARY CARE FOR EVERYONE
- AND MORE

Kaniatarowanénhne Kaniatarí:io Ata'karitéhtshera Raotinèn:ra

The Great River Insider

A Newsletter for Primary Care Providers of the Great River Ontario Health Team

Primary Care Network Event Brought Partners Together

54 **PARTICIPANTS (including 18 physicians and NPs)** came together in Morrisburg on September 23 for a PCN event focused on learning and collaboration



Participants discussed progress in improving communication with **Diabetes Education Programs**, including updated notification processes and streamlined documentation. **Funded chronic disease management programs for diabetes, heart failure, COPD and asthma** were also showcased, with data demonstrating reduced ER visits and hospitalizations, improved outcomes, and better patient and provider experiences. Additionally, attendees were surveyed on the value of the E2P Toolbar **(view the survey results).**

OntarioMD shared regional progress in **reducing the administrative burden of hospital reports** across Atlas Alliance hospitals.

Discussions between primary care and mental health clinicians explored shared challenges in supporting people with **mental health, substance use health and addictions (MHASUH) needs**. Proposed solutions will be reviewed by the OHT MHASUH Project Team to identify opportunities for collaboration and develop a sustainable shared care model within existing resources **(view the MHASUH summary).**

Feedback confirmed that the event was useful and that the PCN is moving in the right direction, while recognizing that more work remains **(view the evaluation summary and the slide decks).**

Thank you to everyone who participated and shared ideas. Your input helps shape integrated care across Great River OHT. The next event is tentatively planned for spring 2027.

BE THE VOICE OF PRIMARY CARE IN OUR ONTARIO HEALTH TEAM!

The Great River OHT continues to hold open a seat on the Steering Committee for a comprehensive primary care clinician (MD or NP). **Primary care clinician voices are essential to our work. Be the voice of change in your OHT.** The commitment is approximately 2 hours per month, with meetings held from **5:00–7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month.** This is a paid role if you are not compensated by your home organization for participation. If you're interested in getting involved, please contact **d.plourde@cscestrie.on.ca**.

Making Progress Toward Primary Care for Everyone

The goal of the Primary Care Action Team (PCAT) is ambitious: to attach **100% of Ontarians to a primary care provider or team by 2029**, and we are seeing tremendous local progress toward that goal. This spring, clinics across the Great River OHT successfully attached **all individuals who were on the Health Care Connect (HCC) wait list before January 2025**—an important milestone in improving access to primary care in our region. Work is now underway to support attachment for residents on the current HCC wait list, as well as through other pathways.





AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2026:

432 **PATIENTS REMAIN ON OUR WAITING LIST**
We are proud to be on track to clear the wait list in November!

If your clinic is receiving requests for patient attachment and you do not have capacity, please encourage people to register with HCC. People who registered this summer are being attached now. We extend our sincere appreciation to the following organizations for their ongoing commitment to improving access to primary care: CSC de l'Estrie, Glengarry Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic, McConnell Family Health Centre, Rideau St. Lawrence FHT and its associated FHO practices and Seaway Valley CHC.

Supporting Practices in Attaching New Patients

Through our Supported Attachment program, primary care practices with capacity can access support to help attach new patients. If your practice has capacity and would like to learn more about how we can support you, please reach out to **Dr. Marilyn Crabtree**.

ONTARIO LAUNCHES NEW CALL FOR PROPOSALS TO EXPAND ACCESS TO PRIMARY CARE

The Government of Ontario has launched its next call for proposals to create and expand approximately 78 primary care teams that will connect 600,000 more people to a primary care provider. This $250 million investment is part of the government's $3.4 billion Primary Care Action Plan, as the province remains on track to connect everyone in Ontario to a family doctor or primary care team by 2029.

For full details of the news release, please visit:
Ontario Launches Call for Proposals to Connect 600,000 More People to Primary Care

This year's funding applications are due November 20th and we are already working with interested partners to write a collaborative proposal. If your clinic is interested in joining in a funding application this fall, or joining a discussion to plan for a proposal during the final opportunity expected for fall 2027, please contact **Dr. Marilyn Crabtree** ASAP.

CARDIORESPIRATORY SERVICES Appointments Within 3 Business Days

Cornwall Community Hospital (CCH) Cardio-respiratory Services currently has appointment availability within three business days for the following respiratory diagnostic tests:

- Pulmonary Function Testing (PFT)
- Methacholine Challenge Testing (MCT)
- Individualized Exercise Assessment (IEA)

These services are available Monday to Thursday, 7:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., and Friday, 7:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m., supporting timely access to respiratory diagnostic testing for patients in our region.

To refer a patient:
Please fax the **completed referral** to 613-938-5389 (Ocean eReferral coming soon).



HELP IMPROVE BLEEDING ASSESSMENT IN PRIMARY CARE

Are you a family physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant?

You are invited to participate in a 5-10 minute anonymous online survey exploring:

- Resources and approaches used in clinical practice
- How primary care providers assess possible bleeding disorders
- Awareness and use of the Self-BAT tool

There is no compensation for participation in this study.

Click here to participate.

RESOURCES/INFORMATION

- 2026 Primary Care Clinician Survey Results:
  - **GR OHT vs. Regional and OHT Averages**
- New Quality Standards:
  - **Falls in Adults** and **Frailty in Adults**
- Patient Enrolment:
  - **Roster Reconciliation Tool** (free)
- A Tool to Identify Pediatric Patients Who May Benefit from Genetic Evaluation:
  - **ThinkRare**
- Primary Care Cancer Connection:
  - **September 2026 Newsletter**
- OMA OHT CoP October Session:
  - **Recording** and **Slide Deck**
- Keeping Older Adults at Home in the Great River OHT (Webinar):
  - **Caregiver Social Prescribing Presentation**
  - **Introduction of the Post-Fall Pathway**
- New Promotional Tools:
  - **East Region Virtual Care Clinic**

